

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

1. READ THE TEXT ABOUT ORIGIN OF WOMEN'S DAY AT THE SECOND PAGE AND MARK SENTENCES TRUE OR FALSE.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. NEW ZEALAND BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO GIVE WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 2. THE FIRST WOMEN'S DAY WAS CELEBRATED ON 8 TH MARCH. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 3. IN 1913 WOMEN'S DAY WAS TRANSFERRED TO 8 MARCH. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 4. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR WAS IN 1985. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 5. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN/S DAY IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN MANY COUNTRIES. | TRUE / FALSE |

2. USE GIVEN WORDS TO WRITE DOWN THE PICTURES BELOW: **TULIP, ROSE, SUNFLOWER, NARCISSUS, ORCHID, DAISY.**



1



2



3



4



5



6

3. DO YOU LIKE WOMEN'S DAY?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. IS IT NECESSARY FOR WOMEN TO HAVE THEIR OWN DAY?

.....

.....

.....

.....

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In 1869 British MP John Stuart Mill was the first person in Parliament to call for women's right to vote. On 19 September 1893 New Zealand became the first country in the world to give women the right to vote. Women in other countries did not enjoy this equality and campaigned for justice for many years.

In 1910 a second International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen. A woman named Clara Zetkin (Leader of the 'Women's Office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany) tabled the idea of an *International Women's Day*. She proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day - a *Women's Day* - to press for their demands. The conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, representing unions, socialist parties, working women's clubs, and including the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament, greeted Zetkin's suggestion with unanimous approval and thus *International Women's Day* was the result.

The very first *International Women's Day* was launched the following year by Clara Zetkin on 19 March (not 8 March). The date was chosen because on 19 March in the year of the 1848 revolution, the Prussian king recognized for the first time the strength of the armed people and gave way before the threat of a proletarian uprising. Among the many promise he made, which he later failed to keep, was the introduction of votes for women.

Plans for the first *International Women's Day* demonstration were spread by word of mouth and in the press. During the week before *International Women's Day* two journals appeared: *The Vote for Women* in Germany and *Women's Day* in Austria. Various articles were devoted to *International Women's Day*: 'Women and Parliament', 'The Working Women and Municipal Affairs', 'What Has the Housewife got to do with Politics?', etc. The articles thoroughly analyzed the question of the equality of women in the government and in society. All articles emphasized the same point that it was absolutely necessary to make parliament more democratic by extending the franchise to women.

Success of the first *International Women's Day* in 1911 exceeded all expectation.

Meetings were organized everywhere in small towns and even the villages halls were packed so full that male workers were asked to give up their places for women.

Men stayed at home with their children for a change, and their wives, the captive housewives, went to meetings.

During the largest street demonstration of 30,000 women, the police decided to remove the demonstrators' banners so the women workers made a stand. In the scuffle that followed, bloodshed was averted only with the help of the socialist deputies in Parliament.

In 1913 *International Women's Day* was transferred to 8 March and this day has remained the global date for *International Women's Day* ever since.

During International Women's Year in 1975, IWD was given official recognition by the United Nations and was taken up by many governments. *International Women's Day* is marked by a national holiday in China, Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

